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**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4408**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session**

**By Representatives Quall, Ormsby, Dunn and McDermott**

Read first time 02/25/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            WHEREAS, Student achievement is improving at a much faster pace in  
2 elementary schools than in secondary schools, and in international  
3 comparisons of student achievement, American students do better at the  
4 elementary level than in middle and high schools; and

5            WHEREAS, The achievement gap between students from Caucasian and  
6 Asian heritages and students from other ethnic groups grows as students  
7 progress through the public school system; and

8            WHEREAS, High schools and, to a lesser extent, middle schools are  
9 afflicted with persistently high dropout rates; and

10           WHEREAS, There is broad recognition that the structure and design  
11 of secondary schools are among the reasons for their achievement  
12 declines and dropout rates; and

13           WHEREAS, There is a body of research and experience that suggests  
14 more effective ways to design and structure secondary education; and

15           WHEREAS, The state has increased achievement pressure on high  
16 schools and their students by strengthening high school graduation  
17 requirements and demanding evidence that, before they are granted  
18 diplomas, students have learned the essential academic learning  
19 requirements in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies,  
20 the arts, and health and fitness;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of  
2 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a joint select  
3 committee on secondary education be formed to examine the basic  
4 structure of middle schools and high schools and to recommend, if  
5 found, more effective organizational structures; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee consist of  
7 two members of each major caucus of the senate, appointed by the  
8 president of the senate; and two members of each major caucus of the  
9 house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
10 representatives; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee examine the  
12 rates of student academic improvement in middle and high schools, the  
13 state and national literature and research on secondary school  
14 redesign, the degree to which state high schools have organized or  
15 reorganized to support student learning and improved academic  
16 achievement, and the effect of the current delivery model on  
17 achievement gaps and dropout rates; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee examine  
19 successful models for middle and high school organization, in  
20 Washington, nationally, and internationally. Successful models include  
21 those that successfully reduce dropout rates, have no or small  
22 achievement gaps, accelerate achievement and improvement of state  
23 academic standards, successfully teach mathematics and science, and  
24 provide both challenging options for students who meet standards early  
25 and more flexible options for students who are juniors and seniors; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee consult  
27 educational experts and stakeholders, directly or through such  
28 subcommittees as the committee may form; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee report its  
30 findings and recommendations to the house of representatives and senate  
31 committees responsible for education policy by January 15, 2006; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee receive  
33 staffing support from senate committee services and the house of  
34 representatives office of program research; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the joint select committee  
36 receive per diem and travel as provided in RCW 44.04.120; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee expire on  
2 June 30, 2006.

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